LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A composition for enhancing contrast of one or more areas of a subject for X-ray imaging when administered to a subject, comprising:

sterically stabilized liposomes ~~containing or associated with~~ encapsulating one or more nonradioactive contrast-enhancing agents, wherein the sterically stabilized liposomes comprise ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient capable of stabilizing the sterically stabilized liposomes in blood, and wherein the sterically stabilized liposomes contain a~~ cholesterol, at least one phospholipid, and at least one phospholipid which is derivatized with a polymer chain, the sterically stabilized liposomes being less than ~~about~~ 150 nanometers in average diameter.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, where the X-ray imaging is computed tomography.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, where the contrast-enhancing agents are iodinated ionic or iodinated nonionic compounds.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, where a suspension of the sterically stabilized liposomes has a concentration of at least 30 milligrams of iodine per milliliter of the suspension.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, where the average diameter of the sterically stabilized liposomes is less than ~~about~~ 120 nanometers.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, where the composition is capable of being administered to the bloodstream of the subject.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 7, where the composition provides an enhanced contrast that remains detectable at least 30 minutes after administration.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 7, where the composition provides an enhanced contrast in at least part of a vasculature or an organ of a subject that is increased by at least 50 Hounsfield units.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, where the sterically stabilized liposomes are PEGylated liposomes.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, where the sterically stabilized liposomes are targeted liposomes.

12.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A composition including at least one sterically stabilized liposome, comprising:

at least one first lipid or phospholipid;

at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers; and

at least one sterically bulky excipient capable of stabilizing the sterically stabilized liposome ~~in blood~~;

wherein the at least one sterically stabilized liposome is less than ~~about~~ 150 nanometers in average diameter, and wherein the at least one ~~sterically stabilized liposome is associated with~~ nonradioactive contrast enhancing agent is encapsulated by the at least one sterically stabilized liposome.

26. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one first lipid or phospholipid includes 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DPPC).

27. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers includes [N-(carbonylmethoxypolyethyleneglycol 2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine] (DSPE-MPEG2000).

28. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one sterically bulky excipient is chosen from one or more of sterols, fatty alcohols and fatty acids, or a mixture thereof.

29. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~28~~ 25, wherein the at least one sterically bulky excipient is cholesterol.

30. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one sterically stabilized liposome is not autoclaved.

31. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the sterically stabilized liposome is contained in a suspension medium, ~~the suspension medium being essentially free of~~ at least some of the contrast enhancing agent that has not been encapsulated ~~or associated with~~ by the sterically stabilized liposome having been removed from the suspension medium.

32. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one first lipid or phospholipid is present in the amount of about 55 to about 75 mol %; the at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers is present in the amount of about 1 to about 20 mol %; and the at least one sterically bulky excipient is present in the amount of about 25 to about 40 mol %.

33. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 32, wherein the at least one first lipid or phospholipid is hydrogenated soy phosphatidylcholine~~, which is present in an amount of about 58 to about 59 mol %~~; the at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers is [N-(carbonylmethoxypolyethyleneglycol 2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine] (DSPE-MPEG2000)~~, which is present in the amount of about 5 to about 6 mol %~~; and the at least one sterically bulky excipient is cholesterol~~, which is present in the amount of about 36 to about 37 mol %~~.